

THE

DURHAM GARLAND.

In FOUR PARTS.



PART I.

A Wo thy Lord of vast estate,
Who did in Durham dwell of late;
But I will not declare his name,
By reason of his birth and fame.

But if you the truth would know,
This Lord he did a hunting go,
He had indeed a noble train,
Of lords, and knights, and gentlemen.

Unto fam'd Yorkshire he would ride,
With all his gallants by his side,
In hunting pass'd the time away,
But being weary as they say,

His lordship lost his noble train,
Of lords, and knights, and gentlemen,
And hearing not the horns to blow,
He could not tell which way to go.

But he did wander to and fro,
Being weary, likewise full of woe,
At last dame fortune was so kind,
That he the keeper's house did find.

He went and knocked at the gate,
And though it was so very late,

The forester he let him in,
And kindly entertained him.

But in the middle of the night,
When as the stars did shine so bright,
The Lord was in a full surprise,
Being waked with a dismal noise.

Then did he rise and call with speed,
To know the reason of this indeed,
Of all that shrieking and that noise,
Which did so much his soul surprise.

I'm sorry, sir, the keeper said,
That you should be so much afraid :
But I hope that all will soon be well,
My wife is into labour fell,

This noble Lord was learn'd and wise,
And knew the planets of the skies,
He saw an evil planet reign
So call'd the forester again.

And gave him then to understand,
He'd have the midwife hold her hand,
But he was answered by the maid,
Her mistress was delivered.

At one o'clock that very morn,
A lovely infant there was born :
He was indeed a pretty boy,
Which gave his parents mickle joy.

The Lord was generous kind and free,
And proffer'd godfather to be :
This good man thank'd him heartily,
For his good will and courtesy.

A parson was called for with speed,
For to christen the child indeed,

And after as we did hear say,
In joy and mirth they spent the day.

This noble Lord did presents give,
And all the servants did receive,
They beg'd God would encrease his store,
For they had ne'er so much before ;

And likewise to the child he gave,
A noble present and a brave,
It was charming cabinet,
That was with pearls and rubbies set.

Within it was a cabinet of gold,
Your eyes would dazzle to behold,
A richer gift as I may say,
Has not been seen this many a day.

He charg'd his father faithfully,
That he himself should keep the key,
Untill the child could write and read,
And then to give it him indeed,

Pray do not open it at all,
Whatever does to you befall,
For it may do my godson good,
If it be rightly understood.

The second part I will unfold.
As true as ever a tale was told,
Concerning of this lovely child,
Who was obedient, sweet, and mild.

P A R T II.

THIS child did take to learning so,
If you the truth of this would know,
At eleven years of age indeed,
He could both greek and latin read.

But thinking of his cabinet,
Which was with pearls and rubies set,
He asked his father for the key,
The which he gave him speedily.

His cabinet he did unlock,
But he was in amazement struck,
When he the riches did behold,
And also saw the chain of gold.

But searching farther he did find,
A paper that disturb'd his mind;
Which was within the cabinet,
In greek and latin it was writ.

My son, serve God that is on high,
And pray to him incessantly,
Obey your parents, serve the king,
That nothing may your conscience sting;

For seven years hence your fate will be,
To be hang'd upon a tree:
So pray to God both night and day;
To let that hour pass away.

When he these rueful lines did read,
He with a sigh did say, Indeed,
If hanging be my destiny,
My parents shall not see me die,

For I will wander to and fro,
And go whither I do not know,
But first I'll ask my parents leave,
In view their blessing to receive.

Then locking up the cabinet,
He went unto his chamber straight,
And went unto his parents dear,
Beseeching them with many a tear,

That they would grant what he did crave,
 Your blessing first, I beg to have,
 And hope you'll let me go my way,
 'Twill do me good another day.

For I indeed have made a vow,
 But must not tell the reason now;
 But if I live I will return,
 When seven years are past and gone.

Both man and wife did then reply,
 We fear dear son, that you will die,
 If we should yield to let you go,
 Our aged hearts will burst with woe.

Yet he intreated eagerly,
 So that they forc'd were to comply,
 And gave consent that he should go,
 But where, alas! we did not know,

In the third part you soon shall find,
 That fortune was to him most kind,
 And after many dangers past,
 He came to Durham at the last.

P A R T III.

HE went by chance, as I've heard say,
 Unto the house that very day,
 Whereat his godfather did dwell,
 Now mind what fortune him befel.

This youth did crave a service there,
 And strait came out the godfather,
 And seeing him a handsome youth,
 He took him for his page in truth.

In this same place he pleas'd so well,
 That above all he bore the bell,

And so well his Lord did please,
He made him higher by degrees.

He made him butler indeed,
And then chief steward was with speed,
Which made the other servants spite,
And envy him both day and night,

He ne'er was false in his trust,
But proved ever true and just ;
And to the Lord did hourly pray,
To guard him still both night and day.

In this same place it doth appear,
He liv'd the space of seven years,
And on his parents thought upon,
And of his promise to return.

Then humbly of his Lord did crave,
That he his free consent might have,
For to go and see his parents dear,
Whom he'd not seen for many a year.

So having leave away he went,
Not dreaming of the base intent,
Which was contriv'd against him then,
By wicked, false, and malicious men ;

Who had in his portmanteau put,
Their noble Lord's fine golden cup,
And when the Lord at dinner was,
He miss'd the cup as it came to pass.

Where should it be ? the Lord did say,
We had it here but yesterday :

The butler then reply'd with speed,
If you would know the truth indeed,

Your faithful steward that is gone,
With feather'd nest away is flown ;

I do believe he has that and more,
Which does belong unto your store.

No, said the lord it cannot be,
For I have try'd his honesty;
Then said the cook, my lord, I'll die,
Upon a tree that's nine foot high.

But hearing what this man did say,
Did send a messenger that day,
To take him with a hue and cry,
And bring him back immediately.

They search'd his portmanteau indeed,
In which they found the cup with speed,
Then he was struck with sad surpris,
And scarcely could believe his eyes.

The Lord then said unto him strait,
Thou shalt be hanged at my gate,
Because in you I put my trust,
And I took you for nought but just.

P A R T IV.

THE day was fix'd and being come,
Said he, O Lord, it was my doom,
Tho' innocent I do declare,
How my Lord's cup came to be there,
What fate decrees none can deny,
I was adjudged thus to die,
Upon a fatal gallows tree,
Which my godfather did foresee.

In travelling pains my mother was,
Into the world I came at last,
A gentleman with skill did show,
Such death I now am coming to;

A chain and cabinet he gave,
 Unto my father which I have;
 The manuscript that was therein,
 Did show me plain I should be hang'd,
 So the Lord hearing him say so,
 It came into his mind then to
 Keep him from off the gallows high,
 For I think this man is not guilty.

Something I doubt there is in this,
 Methinks it is meer malice
 Of the cook and the butler too;
 And if so, I'll make them rue.

The cause he tries a second time,
 And found them guilty of the crime;
 They were adjudg'd to be hang'd strait,
 Indeed they did deserve their fate.

The Lord he took him, and did say,
 Have you that cabinet, I pray
 Yes, noble Lord, this is the same,
 Was left me with this very chain.

My daughter is a virgin bright,
 And you shall have her this very night,
 Wherefore now take delight in her,
 'Tis I who am your God-father.

Here's twenty thousand pounds in gold,
 And when I'm dead it shall be told,
 You shall enjoy my whole estate,
 For to make you both rich and great.

10 JUL 52

TEWKESBURY: Printed and Sold by S.
 HARWARD; Sold also at his Shops in
 Gloucester and Cheltenham.